

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, June 24. 1710.

I Cannot forget that this Paper is to come out on the great Day of City Election, when the Tribunes of the People are to be Nominated for the ensuing Year——And when the Power of Parties is to exert itself; and tho' what I am speaking may not please, yet as Pleasing you has not been my Study so much as Serving you, the Gentlemen on either side must expect me to be very plain.

I could give you Similies, and Allegories to represent the Case to you, and read you long Lectures upon the *Roman* Affairs under the Government of their Consuls and Tribunes; from which you might see readily what I mean, and might make Application to your selves. — But I have chosen

a down-right Plainness, and to speak home both in Fact and in Style: A Method however less safe to my self, yet more generally Instructing and Clear to the Understanding of the People I am speaking to.

Nor is our present Times without Examples, from whence to fetch our Instruction, as well as the Ages of the *Roman* or *Gracian* Government —— From which Examples a Man may speak more directly to the Understandings of our Readers, and may bid the Citizens of *London* rather Remember what they have seen, than what they have read.

It cannot but be as much to the purpose, and more easily understood, to tell the Citizens of *London*, that having been Mobb'd into

into Elections of Madmen for Sheriffs, those Sheriffs found means by Pack'd and Perjur'd Juries to assist Tyranny in Murdering the Patriots of Liberty, and the Champions of our Laws; such as my Lord *Russell*, *Sidney*, *Cornish*, &c. as to tell them, that *Sicinius* Tribune of the People of *Rome*, put the People in an Uproar, rais'd the Mobb against the Senate, and forced *C. Martius Coriolanus*, who had been the Terror of their Enemies, and the Great Raisher of the *Roman* Glory, into Banishment——It is as much to the purpose to tell you plainly, How you Treat the Hero that Fights for you, for whole V Stories you make Bonfire., and by whose Dangers you Triumph! How you raise Parties and Factions against his Honour, Reputation, and if it were in your Power, *his Life too*! As to tell you how the *Athenians* Banish'd *Alciades*, that had been their Generalissimo, Fought a Hundred Battles for them, and reduced the most powerful Enemies of their Common-Wealth.

It remains then only to put you in Mind of the Times and Things of recent Memory: Things you need not search your Histories for, or ask your Fathers about; but may rummage your own Memory to confirm; and to put you in Mind how the Lives, Fortunes and Honour of your Citizens, depend upon the Choice of your Sheriffs——How much it is in their Power to raise or suppress Rabbles and Tumults, to assist or discourage Mad Factions, to encourage Parties, to form Accusations against innocent Men, and pack corrupt Juries, or Jury of corrupt Principles, to find Bills, make Presentments, and Condemn innocent Men, that your Defenders may be

Sacrificed to the Malice of your Enemies; and that the Laws and Liberties of *Englishmen* may not be vindicated, but at the Hazard of the Lives and Fortunes of those that would appear for them.

How long is it since the Liberty of your Election was Invaded? And Soldiers placed in *Guild-Hall* to take your Poll——To let in, or shut out such as would or would not Betray their Country, and give up your Privileges. Thousands are to Vote *this very Day* that saw, and cannot but Remember that Time. And pray, Gentlemen, what was the Consequence of the *High Flying* Enemy getting the better in those Elections——Was it not the Butchery of your Citizens, the Betraying your Charter, and the letting in an Arbitrary Tyrant, and a Bloody Party upon the Properties and Lives of your Inhabitants?

As you like the Proceedings of those Days, If it be unjust that you have recover'd your Liberty, and pull'd down the Encroachments of that Time. If you are tir'd with the Ease of a legal Administration. If you are Gorg'd with Liberty, and Sick till you Vomit up the Privileges you have Surfeited with——Then Neglect the Work of this Day; Omit your Duty, and cease to struggle for faithful Magistrates and bold Assertors of your Rights. Give up your Claim to Laws and Constitution, *Brevi Manu*; and let High Flyers, Mad Men and Jacobites, have their Swinge, that your Posts and Chains may be pull'd Down again, and your Streets be Adorn'd with Gibbets for the Execution of those that offer to Esponse your Liberties——As it was before.

MISCELLANEA.

I Have hitherto given my own Thoughts only of the present Grievance of the Coal-Trade——I am very far from imposing my Judgment in such Cases——I have endeavour'd to speak with all pos-

sible impartiality in this matter, as I would do in all Matters. I am sure I have no concern on either side; and have particular Reasons to convince Mankind, that Interest can be no Byass to me——As to Bribes on
one

one Hand or other, I can, I thank God, treat the Suggestion of it with Contempt; and the World has taken Care to keep me out of Condition to have any share in the Trade——All I know, that I am like to come in for in the Matter, is to bring my self in to pay the Dearer for my Coals this Winter.

Yet I must own I am for Coals being Dearer.—And because it is an odd Maxim, I'll explain my self a little; To have any thing run down in Price below what it can be afforded to be Sold at, is the readiest way to have it Dearer than it can be afforded to be bought at——All Things are Dear or Cheap in proportion, tho' it will always be true that 30 s. is Dearer than 24. literally speaking; yet in this Case 30 s. may be Cheaper than 24. if the Price of 30 s. per Chaldron be as little as possible for the Masters to bring the Coals at, and live——That is, support their Trade; then 30 s. is Cheap and not Dear——If running them down to 24 s. is to make them lose their Stocks, and work themselves behind Hand; then it tends to disabling them from Working at all, which must End in lessening the Quantity, and raising the Price at last to an excessive Rate; and thus 24. may be Dearer than 30.

The present Obstruction to the Coal-Trade has not only a Dearness of Price attending it, but the worst kind of Dearness, viz. a Rise of Price to the Poor, and not to the Rich. *The Case is plain*; The Rich, and all such as can upon any Terms part with Money to lay in their Store of Coals for the Winter, will certainly buy now, while the Price is but moderately advanced——If any stay till Winter, or to the latter End of Summer, when Coals in the probability will be near double Price, it will be the Poorer sort, who for want of Money, cannot lay up a Store sooner, and the poorest People who never can lay them up at all.

This Oppression is indeed very pinching, and is a weight that will lye hardest upon those that have least Strength to bear it; and this is one thing which makes me say, the City ought to concert themselves to

Dissolve these unhappy Combinations, which have brought the Navigation to such a pass, that it cannot go forward——Nor am I as a loss to, tell the World which way this may be done, even just now, is part——But effectually, and perhaps with some just Resentment at the Authors of it, when a Parliament comes to take Cognisance of it——Add 'tis pity a Parliament should want, nor indeed shall they want a full State of the Dispute, that Justice may be done.

But to come to a little History in the Case; Hitherto, I say, I have spoken my own Opinion only, now I must refer you to *Master of Fact*: And here I shall have the Honour to let the World see, that what I have already said on this Point, conforms exactly to the Determination of her Majesty and the Privy-Council, upon a full hearing of both Parties, June the 20th, according to the Summons mention'd in the *Gazette* of the 18th——The Reason of which is not at all that I squar'd my Opinion by the Judgment of the Council; that could not be, because I gave my Opinion before the Council took any Cognisance of the Matter; much less was it, that my Opinion had any share in determining the Council in Judgment. I have no such Arrogance in my Style——But *the Case is plain*, Truth has determin'd the Point; and the making a right Judgment upon a clear view of Fact, has guided this Author, as it has guided her Majesty and the Council; and from this alone it was Determin'd there, just as it was Printed here, viz. That *the Original Combination of the Lightermen are the Causes of all the Mischief*; That *the Masters have by their Oppressions been reduced to the Necessity of agreeing together to prevent the Ruin of their Owners, and of the Trade*; That *her Majesty Govern by LAW*, and the Council can do nothing but *BY LAW*; and that it cannot be expected that the Masters should Suffer *LOSS*, or that Owners should maintain Ships, and employ their Stocks to the Ruin and Undoing of their Family.

Upon which it was recommended to my Lord Mayor to find out proper Methods for removing

removing the Causes aforesaid, that the Trade might be laid open, and the Masters at Liberty to Trade with freedom, and to their Advantage : That such Combinations as have been the Cause of the Interruption, may be Dissolv'd, and such Means (Amicable if possible) be used, that the Market may be left free without the Mischicks of Forestalling and Ingrossing Combinations, and the like.

And thus the whole Matter is fairly thrown back upon its Original, and my Lord Mayor, I make no question, sees now, that the Knavery lies where perhaps he did not perceive it, or at least where, perhaps, he was not very willing to have it fix'd.

I shall in my next give you the Answer of the Coal-Masters before the Queen and

Council, Sign'd by their Hands ; and which, tho' it was not given in by their Council, as he was Directed to do (a Case I may enquire into hereafter) yet has been since laid before her Majesty, Sign'd by above 100 Hands in one Night's time, and might have been Sign'd by many more, had there been time for it.

I shall then proceed to Examine what Proofs there are to be had of the Combination complain'd of by the Colliers, and what Remedies are proper to be thought of for the whole ; and then may come in a Word to the poor Keelmen of *New-castle*, who have had a deep share in the Consequence of these things, whoever have had hand in the Causes.

ADVERTISEMENT S.

Lately Publish'd,

 A New Treatise of the Venereal Disease ; In two Parts ; the first of which Treats, 1. Of the Name and original Cause of this Disease. 2. Of the Essence and Nature of the Infection. 3. Of the various Ways of Giving and Receiving, Symptoms first Discovering, and infallible Way of preventing its Infections. 4. Of a Clap and its Symptoms. 5. Of the Cure of a Clap. 6. Of a simple Gonorrhoea, and old Gleets in Men, and Women ; and their Cure. 7. Of a confirm'd Pox, and its Cure. 8. Of Mercury, its good Effects, and how to Remove its ill Effects. 9. Of the Pox complicated with other Diseases. 10. Of Diet, &c. proper for Venereal Patients. The second Part contains an effectual Answer to Mr. *Marsen's* Treatise concerning the Venereal Disease, and the Charitable Surgeon. Sold (Price 18 d.) at my House, the *Golden Ball* between the *Sun* and *Cassile* Taverns in *Milkstreet-Market*, *Cheshide*.

Whereas it was inserted in the *Post-Boy*, that *Devereux Edgar*, and *Orlando Bridgman*, Esq's. were turn'd out of the Commission of the Peace for the County of *Suffolk*, by the Misinformation of the Bailiff, and some other Factions Persons of *Ipswich* ; and were restor'd by her Majesty's special Command, upon hearing the Case : This is to inform the World, That these Facts are false ; and the Author of the *Post Boy* having refus'd to do Justice to the Person injur'd, by inserting the Truth of this Affair, will be Prosecuted for his said scandalous Reflections on the said Magistrates, &c.

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